

NOV 09 2006

Docket No.: 13156-00038-US1

Application 10/570,804

Response to office action dated October 4, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-22 are now pending in the present application. The allowance of claims 1-8, 11 and 13-21 is hereby noted with appreciation. Claim 9 has been amended by deleting the phrase "or of the second thermally coupled column" for purposes of clarification and not to restrict its intended scope. Claim 9 has also been amended to recite "by" as suggested by the examiner for purposes of clarification and not to restrict its intended scope. Claim 10 has been amended by deleting the phrase "preferably from 1 to 5 theoretical plates above the column bottom" for purposes of clarification and not to restrict its intended scope. New claim 22 is presented to include the recitation "from 1 to 5 theoretical plates above the column bottom" deleted from claim 10.

The specification has been amended to recite "Not more than 5 % by weight of the methanol has been distilled off at the same time or beforehand" to render the specification consistent with original claim 7. The specification has also been amended to refer to B2 and P2 from the drawings.

The amendments to the specification, claims and new claim 22 do not introduce any new matter.

The objection to the drawings and the objection to the specification have been obviated the above amendments to the specification. The objection to claim 9 has been overcome by the amendment reciting "by" in claim 9.

The rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been overcome by the above amendments to claims 9 and 10.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event that the examiner believes that an interview would advance the prosecution of this application in any way the undersigned attorney is available at the phone number noted below.

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If any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13156-00038-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 11/9/06

Respectfully submitted

By 

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